National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John C. Stennis Space Center Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000 (228) 688-3341



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StenniSphere, Stennis Space Center's award-winning visitor center, features 14,000 square feet of informative displays and exhibits from NASA, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and other agencies. Visitors from around the world tour the space center each year. Free tours to StenniSphere begin at the Launch Pad tour stop at the Hancock County (Miss.) Welcome Center at Interstate 10, Exit 2, north of Bay St. Louis, Miss., just 45 miles east of New Orleans.



StenniSphere offers narrated tours of America's largest rocket propulsion test complex, where all space shuttle main engines are tested and proven flight-worthy. It also features indoor and outdoor exhibits that are fun and educational for both children and adults.

On display at the Launch Pad is a 30-foot Lunar Lander that was used as a trainer by Apollo astronauts for their moon mission, complete with Apollo 13 Astronaut Fred Haise's boot prints and autograph at its base.

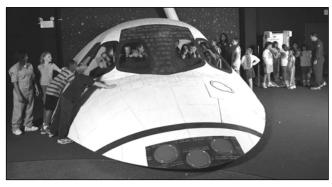
Visitors to StenniSphere can witness Stennis Space Center's role in the Vision for Space Exploration announced by President George W. Bush in January 2004. The Vision for Space Exploration is a journey that will take humans back to the moon, and eventually to Mars and beyond. Tours to the propulsion test complex provide visitors the opportunity to see the test stands where all space shuttle main engines are test-fired and proven flightworthy. Also located in the test complex are test stands designed for testing rocket engine components and full-scale engines for future spacecraft.

The lobby of StenniSphere features an exhibit highlighting the career of the late Sen. John C. Stennis, for whom the center is named.

Exhibits

- Moon Rock collected by the crew of Apollo 15 in August 1971, estimated to be more than 3 billion years old
- Apollo 4 Command Module unmanned module launched Nov. 9, 1967, to test the thermal protection system during re-entry

- Test Control Center a mock-up of a Stennis Space Center test control center where you can "test" a space shuttle main engine and "launch" a rocket
- Space Shuttle Cockpit land a computerized version of the space shuttle
- International Space Station full-scale mock-up of a habitation and laboratory module
- Swamp to Space a history of the center and information on the local environment
- Evolution of Space Flight a pictorial history of America's space program



The Space Cockpit exhibit simulates piloting a space shuttle.

- Needlepoint Mission Patches replicas of NASA mission patches by members of the American Needlepoint Guild
- The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command a weather center, a representation of the ocean floor and information about the Earth's oceans
- Caring for the Gulf Together how Stennis resident agencies support preservation of the Gulf of Mexico
- NASA's Technology: an Investment in America's Future a review of how space exploration has led to technological advances that have improved everyday life
- Touching Tomorrow ... Today NASA's education exhibit highlighting the importance of sharing tomorrow's vision with today's youths and educators

Outdoor Exhibits

- Space shuttle main engine
- Learjet Model 28 airplane mounted with remote sensors that gather detailed images of the Earth
- Full-scale Nomad buoy from the National Data Buoy Center that represents the automated observing systems that measure weather and ocean conditions
- Scale model of the Saturn V rocket that took America's astronauts to the moon
- F-1 engine that powered the first stage of the Saturn V rocket
- Solid Rocket Booster that powers the space shuttle into orbit
- Jupiter-C rocket, the kind that put the first U.S. satellite into orbit

Programs

The adventures of astronauts Dr. Halley Comet and Cosmo are portrayed in the live stage show, "Oh My Stars, We've Landed on Mars," performed daily in the StenniSphere auditorium. Space-themed videos play throughout the day. Keep up with the latest scientific discoveries with "Science Bulletins," broadcast by the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Experiments on how the environment of space affects the human body are conducted live at the new "Experimentation Station."

Astro Camp

Inspire your future astronaut, engineer or scientist at Stennis Space Center's Astro Camp. Weeklong day camps are held each summer for children ages 7-9 and 10-12. One-day Astro Camp Saturday missions are held during the school year for children ages 9-12. For dates, costs and other details call 1 (800) 237-1821 (Option 4) or visit www.nasa.gov/stennis and click on the Astro Camp logo.

Additional Features

The RocKeTeria, a space-themed 1960s-style restaurant, offers a full menu of local favorites such as gumbo and po-boys. The Space Odyssey Gift Shop offers the "right stuff" for souvenirs or gifts.

Hours and Location

StenniSphere is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Group tours may be booked to visit Monday-Saturday. (Call ahead for reservations at 1 (800) 237-1821.) StenniSphere is closed on major holidays. Public tours run continually throughout the day, beginning 10 a.m. at the Launch Pad at the Hancock County (Miss.) Welcome Center, Interstate 10, Exit 2. Admission to StenniSphere is free.

For more information or to make reservations for groups, call StenniSphere at (228) 688-2370 or (800) 237-1821 (Option 1) in Mississippi and Louisiana, or visit: www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/ and click on the StenniSphere logo.